

DDI-

232783/1
att: ER 83-122

International Terrorism:
Talking Points for DDCI Presentation to
Businessmen

International Terrorism: The Problem

- In the spring of 1982 while the US and European news media focused on the daily meetings of the Versailles Economic Summit, bombs in Paris ripped apart the offices of American Express, the Bank of America, and the American School of Paris.
- On March 7, 1983 TEXACO executive Kenneth Bishop was kidnapped by terrorists in Colombia.
- These and an increasing number of similar incidents demonstrate that terrorism is a direct threat to US citizens and economic interests throughout the world.
- Effectively exploited, terrorism can gain international attention and, perhaps, strategic leverage for relatively weak, sub-national groups. The cumulative impact of Palestinian terrorist acts during the 1970s was to keep Palestinian interests at the forefront of the world community.

DCI
EXEC
REG

B3/2

- Some terrorist groups are motivated by territorial or cultural goals--Irish, Palestinian, and Armenian terrorists. Others are motivated by ideology, particularly leftist ideology--the Italian Red Brigades and the West German Red Army Faction.
- US interests are chiefly in danger from the ideological terrorists. In addition to their frequently Marxist or Maoist beliefs, these terrorists almost uniformly see the United States as both the symbol and the protector of a system that terrorist would like to destroy.

US Citizens as Targets

US citizens are primary targets of international terrorism, especially in countries where the United States has a high profile. Although Latin America carries the highest risk because of the frequency of hostage-taking and assassination, a significant number of events have also occurred in West Germany, Italy, and Greece.

- Almost 200 Americans have been killed by terrorist attacks during the last 15 years.

- While about half of those killed were the victims of indiscriminate acts, the number of Americans purposefully singled out for assassination has steadily increased.
- US Government personnel and facilities have born the brunt of the terrorists' animosity; the US business community, including local subsidiaries of US firms, is also a target.
- In 1982 over 100 attacks were carried out against US businesses--30 businessmen wounded but none killed--and over half of the attacks resulted in significant property damage.
- Terrorists often attack or threaten companies for financial gain. Extortion payments for kidnapped executives can amount to millions of dollars. Terrorists use these funds to purchase arms and other material to expand their operations. It is estimated that US firms have paid in excess of \$125 million in ransom over the past ten years.

Counterterrorist Successes: 1982

1982 witnessed some significant international counterterrorist breakthroughs and was a crippling year for certain European terrorist groups.

- The Palestinian armed forces and their attendant terrorist elements were routed from Beirut and southern Lebanon.
- Major operational successes by the Italian police resulted in the arrests of hundreds of Red Brigadists, the confiscation of weapons, the discovery of safehouses, and a serious disruption of the terrorists' infrastructure.
- Three leaders of the West German leftist Red Army Faction were arrested in November, and weapons caches were uncovered which will probably result in a period of decreased RAF activity.

The Problem Remains

Despite these counterterrorist successes, the international terrorist problem has not disappeared.

- The dispersal of the PLO from Lebanon and the destruction of their conventional military capability has reduced the number of non-terrorist action options at the PLO's disposal. This dangerous situation will deteriorate further if Yasir Arafat can no longer hold up the prospect of progress in the diplomatic arena.
- The more radical Palestinian groups such as Black June and the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Faction have always rejected the PLO's strategy of restraint in the international terrorism arena.
- Despite the setbacks suffered by the Red Brigades and RAF in 1982, there remains the potential for their reemergence and for the emergence of new leftist radical groups in Western Europe.
- Finally, opposition to US policy in Central America and elsewhere will continue to contribute to the terrorist threat to Americans throughout Latin America.

The CIA's Role

We at the CIA are concerned with international terrorism and are working closely with other US Government agencies to counter this problem wherever and in whatever form it may arise.

- The CIA has a center devoted to understanding and tracking international terrorist groups.
- We have strengthened our ability to collect and analyze intelligence on terrorism and have taken steps to improve the exchange of information with our friends and allies.
- The State Department, with whom we work closely, has an office for combatting terrorism in operation 24 hours a day to coordinate the US Government response to any terrorist incident.
- American embassies and consulates will advise any American citizen or business representative on terrorist threats in any foreign country and can also provide security suggestions.

Distribution:

1 - ADDI
1 - DDI Registry 1 - D/OGI
1 - DCI
1 - DDCI
1 - ExDir
1 - EA/DDCI
1 - Exec Registry
1 - C/IIC/OGI
1 - C/IIC/TI

C/IIC/ /31Mar83

STAT